# A SUNDAY SERMON

### ELCQUENT DISCOURSE DELIVERED

#### On the Period When the Foundations Of Our Religious Liberty Were First Laid.

New York Ciry.-In the South Congre rational Church, Prook vo. the Rev. J. C. Wilson, associate pastor, delivered a dis-Wilson, associate pattor, delivered a dis-course on "The Struggle for Religious Lib-erty," the subject being "Europe on the Eve of the Reformation." The text was Acts v., 28 and 39: "And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone; for if this coursel or this work be of more it will come to nearby that if it he of men, it will come to nught, but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it: lest haply ye be found even to fight against God." Mr. Wilsen said: Lat me suggest at the outset that the

Mr. Wilson said: Let me suggest at the outset that the struggle for religions liberty and what is known as the Reformation are not in all respects identical movements. The Reformation was a great tidal wave which swept over Europe in the sixteenth century, out of the vast and troubled sea of the centuries whose waters were greatly agitated by the struggle for religious liberty. It was the culmination of that struggle. It assert-ed the fundamental principles upon which it had proceeded, and succeeded in laying true religious liberty could be built, but it left some of the higher standards and finer ideals unatianed. In that respect there is much yet to be desired.

In view of the fact that the Reformation split Europe into two great warring religions camps, it is necessary to remind our-selves that up to that time there had been but one Christian church in Western Europe. And the struggle for religious liberty went on within that church and not outside of it, nor against it, after the first three centuries. Whatever glory and what-ever shame attaches to that church during the first fifteen centuries is shared equally by us all. Protestants and Roman Catholic alike. The Reformation itself originated within the Roman Catholic Church, and was led by mea bred in her schools and cloisters. We should also remember that the Roman Catholic Church of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries is not the Roman Catholic Church of the twentieth century and in the United States.

From a very carly age religious differ-ences have engendered strife and stirred the most violent passions of men. Although the Jews tasted the bitterness of persecution, that did not prevent them from

tion, that did not prevent them from pressing the same cay to the lips of the early Christians and, with the aid of the Romans, making them drink it to its dregs. Then were written the first pages in the most sanguinary and thrilling story—a story of unatterable suffering and grim en-durance for conscience sake—which his-tory's pages record. It can scarcely be called a struggle. It was as impossible for the obscure and defenseless sufferers to re-sist their enemies as for a fly to resist the sist their enemies as for a fly to resist the hand that crushes it. Judged from appearances, it was a remorscless massacre, which crushed its victims into the carth. But the real forces that were working out the problem were not on the surface. The odds against which the early Christians were The odds matched drove them to seek refuge in the mountain fastnesses and in the subterranean caverns, known as catacombs. Here they cherished their faith and worship unthey cheristicate their and and the abated. After two conturies they came forth from their hiding places, disciplined by hard-ship, trained to prudence and forcesight by the paril in which they had lived and with a compact and efficient organization. Their a contract and efficient organization. Their leaders had improved their long seclusion to cultivate letters and arts, and soon took leading places among scholars and men of affairs: so that when Constantine succeed-ed to the undivided possession of supreme power in the Roman Empire prudence, if not preference, moved him to an alliance with them with them.

Then began a new phase in the struggle for religious liberty. The despised and persecuted Christians, now risen to places of power and possessing the throne in the person of the Emperor, did not abuse their trust. Such was the spirit of sweet rea-sonableness which animated them that the first Christian Emperor issued an edict of religions toleration, known as the edict of Milan, which granted religious liberty within the empire, on the basis of the sacred rights of conscience; only those religious rites were prohibited which involved im-morality, magic or sorcery. Not until the fatal passion for power had been aroused in them by its possession did the Christians resort to persecution. The organization of rites were prohibited which involved im-morality, magic or sorrery. Not until the fatal passion for power had been aroused in them by its possession did the Christians resort to persecution. The organization of the Christian church kept pace with its spread in Europe. From Rome as a centre the missionaries penetrated to all parts of Europe. They carried with them the love of the mother church from which they planted to her in gratitude and Christian fellowship. The confidence and affection which she won by her generosity and self-sacritice in the gospel, she soon came to de-mand as her right, and when at length the Bishon of Rome secured the policial pow-er of his city he aspired to make the triadi-tional capital also, the ambitions and relentless spirit of the Caesars. Ecclesiastical Rome usured the right of mankind and perverted their liberties a unthlessly as did political Rome. Throa, is recessive stages the church mounted to the throne of its power until it was mo - absolute than the empire had ever essayed to be. Men like Gregory the Grent, Leo III, and Hildebrand made the most actoriking chinas and relengte the rest actoriking chains and bolute suite attemation to these grent movements and potentiates of larming. The monted to the throne of its power until it was no - absolute than the empire had ever essayed to be. Men like Gregory the Grent, Leo III, and Hildebrand made the contame charts charts and charts and charts and charts and potentiates of the prople. The addition to these grent movements and potentiate soon spread among all classes of the prople. Interfies a unthiessly as did political Rome. Through recessive stages the church mounted to the throne of its power until it was more absolute than the empire had ever essayed to be. Men like Gregory the Great, Leo III, and Hildebrand made the most actonishing claims, and absolute su-premacy in all human affairs, and treated with the utmost severity all who withstood their claims. Unavailing protests to their with the utmost severity all who withstood their claims. Unavailing protests to their astounding pretensions were raised by men like John Scotus, Abelard Arnold, of Bres-cia and Wickliff, and in the humbler walks of life opposition showed itself in such sects as the Albigenses and the Waldenses, neither of which desired to separate them-selves from the Catholic Church, but both of them desired that its pretensions should be moderated and its abuses reformed ac-cording to the scriptural requirements of apostolic simplicity and purity. These men were simple minded and their lives were pure, but they were subjected to the most remorseless persecution. Their heroic en-durance and unfaltering faith has covered their memory with a halo of glory like unto that which surrounds the early Christian martyrs. During the massacre of the Albi-genses was born the order of the Dominigenses was born the order of the Domini-cans, into whose hands was intrusted the institution known as the Inquisition, the most diabolical engine of intolerance and persecution that human ingenuity ever de-vised. It is the fate of all despotisms to work their own destruction by a fatal disregard of the limits of human endurance, and when the papacy added the horrors of the Inquisition to the usurpation of the most sacred of human rights, and aggravated her offenses by the flagrant immorality of the clergy, she transcended her limits and in-roked the long slumbering and accumu-lated wrath of centuries, which burst forth in the Reformation discutted her solid lated wrath of centuries, which burst forth in the Reformation, disrupted her solid empire, and caused her the loss of two-thirds of her spiritual children. Two great movements in the Middle Ages contributed to hasten the triumph of re-ligious liberty in Europe, They were the Crusades and the Renaissance. The relig-ious enthusiasm of Europe, dormant for centuries, was kindled by the fiery elo-quence of Peter the Hermit, as he preached a crusade against the "infidel Turks." for the purpose of rescuing the Holy Sepulcher from their hands. It was as when a door is suddenly opened into a house where a ious enthusiasm of Europe, dormant for centuries, was kindled by the fiery elo-quence of Peter the Hermit, as he preached a crustade against the "infidel Turks," for the purpose of rescuing the Holy Sepulcher from their hands. It was as when a door is suddenly opened into a house where a fire has been long smoldering, smothered in its own smoke, the whole building is wrapped in a sudden conflagration; or as when a volcano long extinct bursts into sudden activity. A spontaneous uprising, sudden activity. A spontaneous uprising, numbers, in power and in resoluteness.

as of one man, unparalleled in history, took place among all classes of people. Kings and peasants, priests and lawyers, merchants and bankers were swept by the same mighty impulse and fired by the same zeal, which for the time burned alike, in every breast and submerged calculations and self-interest. All alike were moved to venture life and fortune in the holy cause. During the space of 200 years seven up-heavals of the population took place known as the Crusades, five of them prodigous and two of them only relatively lesser, ad-of them mighty. Defore the frenzy kin-died by Peter the Hermit died out im-mense treasure was squandered, multitudes of lives were sacrificed and apparently nothing accomplished; total and disastrous failure seemed to attend it all. But here again we are mistaken if we

But here again we are mistaken if we judge by appearances. For although the Crusaders whitened the plains of Asia Mi-nor with their bones and dyed the grass of Northern Africa with their blood withof Northern Africa with their blood with-out achieving any permanent results in either Asia or Africa, their exodus from Europe and their return to their former homes were attended by consequences in Europe far greater than would have been the conquest of all the East and the rescue of the relies of all the saints. In the first place they had broken the power of the place they had broken the power of the Saracens by successive impacts upon .hem, by prolonged conflict with them.

Stratechs by successive inflates upon inten-by prolonged conflict with them. They had fought fire with fire. Religious fauaticism, was matched a ainst religious fanaticism, and it inflicted such numish-ment upon the rapacious and crue! Mussul-man that he has never been able to rally from it. Although he reached the shores of Europe later on, he was exhausted with the straggle, and has continued in a state of languishing impotency ever since. In the second place the Crusades had a marked and lasting effect upon the Cru-saders themselves, and in spite of their suffering and losses the gain was greater than the loss, for it brought them into di-rect and immediate contact with the East, at that time the cultivated and re-fined portion of the world. Constantino-ple and Antioch, the two great storehouses of ancient art and learning, and the cen-tres of the wealth and culture of the Vast. ple and Antioch, the two great storehouses of ancient art and learning, and the cen-tres of the wealth and culture of the Uast, had become familiar to them. Antioch was for a time in their hands. The splen-did buildings, fine fabrics, beautiful stat-nes, costly gems, were a revelation to the Crusaders, and served as object lessons. while the elegant refinements, splendid courtesy, magnificent manners and ancient lerning of the East were not without their effect upon the carse, not without untamed barbarians of the West. Those who sur-vived the conflict returned with new ideas of the character of the world in which they lived, of the meaning of civilization, of the possibilities of humanity, and of the de-fects of Europe. They had been to school and had traveled. Their view of life had been broadened and their minds enriched by contact with superior corditions of tife. and a great mental and moral revolution had been wrought in them.

But the Crusades had also an immediate and lasting effect upon Europe itse'f. For by enlisting in the Crusades the serf bought his freedom from the soil. The debtor was freed from his creditor. He that went out a slave came back a free man with gold coin in his pocket and some new ideas of the world in his head. Seridom, villainage and slavery were practically abolished in Europe. The cities also had been able, by immense sums of money paid to the hered-itary princes, who held lordship over them. to buy their freedom and secure charters for themselves which made them independ-ent in the control of petty ralers, and hy and lasting effect upon Europe itse' for themselves which made them independ-ent in the control of petty rulers, and hy the long absence of the nobles in the East, the middle classes had learned to adminis-ter their own affairs, and so the backbone of the feudal system was broken and the period of freedom and enlightenment came in Modern industrialism was insurated in. Modern industrialism was inaugurated. New ideas sprang up and a redistribution of wealth and privileges took place, to-gether with a new sense of their own place in the world and new wants and ambi-tions in the common people. The immein the world and new wants and ambi-tions in the common people. The imme-diate results to Europe of the Crusades were incalculable. A new spirit of human-ity and of enterprise, of hone and of am-bilion had sprung up, and the death war-rant was signed of the ancient regime of ignorance, superstition and terror which had reigned for a thousand years.

The second great movement that hast-ened the final conflict for religious liberty was the Renaissance or revival of learning in Europe which followed upon the taking of Constantinople by the Tarks in 1453. That was a momentous event for Western Europe. It sent hundreds of Greek schol-ars and literati to find reinge in the West. The learning and the MSS, which they brought with them created a great stir. classes of the people. In addition to these great movements and perhaps as a consequence of them was the spirit of adventure which now broke out simultaneously in Italy and Spain. France and England. Germany and Hol-land. Inspired by Columbus, a native of Genoa. Italy, hundreds of adventurers braved the perils of the untraversed seas in search of new lands, or new passages to the East. New continents were discovered and the globe was circumnavigated. In-vention also was ouickened, printing by movable types and the manufacture of paper from rags had but recently been in-vented. The mariner's compass came into general use in navigation. The telescone was invented and the heavens explored for new worlds, as the seas for new lands. The whole period was one of unprecedent-ed mental activity and ferment. Coperni-cus, by his new system of astronomy, and Kepler. by his laws, were soon revolution-izing astronomy. All of these things had their effects upon the minds of men. The discovery of the size and shape of the earth, of its relation to other bodies in space: of the immense distances in the heavens and the vast systems of worlds in space: the changes of men's ideas as to the centre of the universe and the revelation that it was not the earth, but that the earth was only an insignificant member of a system whose centre was the sun: all served to teach In addition to these great movements not the earth, but that the earth was only an insignificant member of a system whose centre was the sum: all served to teach men the uncertainty and instability of things they had been accustomed to regard sestablished beyond the peradventure of doubt, and led them to expect and pre-pared them to receive changes in other spheres of thought and realms of life. A spirit of skepticism became general and in-vaded even the church, and everything seemed to converge upon and conspire to ward a single point, until nothing could withstand the conjunction of forces which worked to free the human mind from bond-age and the human spirit from thralldom. Beginning with the struggle for religious Beginning with the struggle for religious



The National Convention OLONEL J. B. KILLEBREW, of Tennessee, writing for the Manufacturers' Record, gives the following graphic account of the great National Convention for

good roads at St. Louis: No more successful convention was ever held in the interest of any industrial movement than the good roads' convention that was held in St. Louis. In the number and intelligence of its delegates, in its enthusiasm and working capacity, in its unanimity and singleness of purpose, in the number of able speakers and freedom from partisan or political influences, it was seldom if ever equaled.

Two thousand delegates from nearly every State and Territory in the Union attended the convention. From the first day to the last the most dominating idea was the necessity of government aid in the construction of rural routes-government aid to be conditioned upon an equal amount of local aid as set forth in the Brownlow bill. The best evidence, however, was in the adoption of the declaration of principles and resolutions on the last day of the meeting. There was not a dissenting voice in that large assemblage. The declaration of principles as set forth asserted that the building of good roads in the United States is now of paramount importance to national prosperity and commercial supremacy; that the harmonious co-operation of township, county, State and national governments is needed in furtherance of this end; that though the appropriations hitherto made by Congress for the improvement of the rivers and harbors were beneficent and commendable, yet the time has come when the agricultural districts should be assisted in the matter of building highways, so that the benefits of the free mail delivery may be extended and thus promote a higher order of citizenship and also meet the ever-growing necessities of the great agricultural interests of the country, upon which its

prosperity and growth depend. The principle of State and county co-operation was commended, and it was more than once emphasized that it is as much the duty of the general government to assist in the building of highways as it is to improve the rivers and harbors.

The resolution favoring national aid is to be presented to the Congress of the United States by a committee composed of one member from each State, to he selected by the secretary of the National Good Roads' Association. The building of the Memorial road from Monticello to the University of Virginia in honor of Thomas Jefferson, who signed the first bill for the construction of a national highway on March 29, 1806, was unanimously approved and indorsed by the convention.

Among the most distinguished speakers at the convention were President Roosevelt, William J. Bryan, Senator Latimer, of South Carolina, and Governor Cummins, of Iowa. Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Bryan both spoke of the necessity of building better highways for the nation, and though neither committed himself to the proposition of advocating government aid, yet the inference was clear that both would favor such expenditures. Senator Latimer made a strong and unanswerable argument in favor of government aid. There will be no more earnest worker for good roads in the next Congress than Senator Latimer. The President made some good points. Among other things he said: "It is the habit of road building that gives to a people permanent greatness. "The development of the iron road has been all that one could wish, but it is mere presumption to consider good railways as substitutes for good highwavs.

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intendent of the W. C. T. U. headquarters at Galesburg, Ill., was for ten years one of the leading women there. Her husband, when living, was first President of the Nebraska Wesleyan University at Lincoln; Neb. In a letter written from 401 Sixty-

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wonderful record of cures of torturing, disfiguring humours among infants and children. The suffering which Cutleura Remedies have alleviated among the young, and the comfort they have af-forded worn-out and worried parents, have led to their adoption in countiess homes as priceless curatives for the skin and blood. Infantile and birth humours, milk crust, scalled head, eczema, rashes and every form of itching, scaly, pimply skin and scalp humours, with loss of hair, of infancy and childhood, are speedily, permanently and economic cally cured when all other remedies suitable for children, and even the best physicians, fail.

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This movement in favor of government aid is gathering strength day by day.

#### Sun's Antics at Sunset.

Curious deformations of the sun's disk as it sets have recently been studied by Dr. Prinz, of the Royal Belgian Observatory, by the aid of photography, says a writer in Success. The most common of these are simply indentations of the disk. Sometimes there is appearance as of flames issuing symmetrically from opposite sides and uniting above in a single jet, which disappears to give place to another, formed in the same way. These phenomena, according to M. Prinz, are due to horizontal layers of air of different density, which refract the sun's light. Some such appearance of the solar disk at sunrise may have originated the familiar legend that on Easter morning the sun dances as he rises.

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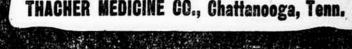
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